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ACTOR MOHANLAL TO BE CONFERRED DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD

The Malayalam actor will be honoured with the country's highest recognition in cinema for his 'iconic contributions' to the field

HIS WORK HAS SET A GOLD STANDARD: MINISTRY

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting praised Mohanlal for setting a golden standard in Indian film history through his "unmatched talent, versatility, and relentless hard work". Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the actor's cinematic and theatrical brilliance across mediums is truly inspiring and called him "the leading light of Malayalam cinema"

350 FILMS IN CAREER SPANNING FOUR DECADES

- In a rich career spanning four decades, he has acted in more than 350 films across Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and Kannada
- Known for his natural acting style and versatility, Mohanlal has won two National Film Awards for best actor and nine Kerala State Film Awards. He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2019

Sep 23

WHEN MOHANLAL WILL BE PRESENTED THE DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD 2023

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Next-Gen
GST
Better & Simpler
CBC 15502/13/0019/2526
FESTIVITIES & SMILES FOR MY FAMILY
GST SAVINGS
ENTERTAINMENT AND COMFORT AT LOWER PRICES
1.5 TON AC TO BE CHEAPER BY UP TO ₹2,800
42-INCH TV TO BE CHEAPER BY UP TO ₹3,500
MONITORS, DISHWASHERS, & POWER BANKS TO ALSO BE CHEAPER
भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT

I don't want you!

2.8L Indian jobs on the line as Trump slaps $1L H-1B fee

SANAL SUDEVAN/DIPAK MONDAL
@ Chennai/New Delhi

THE Trump administration on Saturday imposed a fee of $1,00,000 per year on each H-1B visa holder, dealing a body blow to the 2,83,397 (71%) skilled technology workers from India, as per 2024 data. At 71%, India was the largest beneficiary of H-1B last year, while China was a distant second at 12%.

"We need great workers, and this pretty much ensures that that's what's going to happen," Trump said at the Oval Office as Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick stood by. The new rule would raise the cost of sponsoring an Indian H-1B worker from the current $215 to a staggering $100,000 per year or up to $600,000 over a six-year visa period. The administration says the fee is designed to ensure that only "extraordinary" workers are let in.

TCS accounted for over 5,505 H-1B visas granted for fiscal year 2025 (October 2024-September 2025), followed by Cognizant (3,700), Infosys (2,004), LTIMindtree (1,807), and HCL Tech (1,728). In 2025, TCS was the second-largest recipient of H-1B visas after Amazon, which received approvals for 10,000.

Pew Research notes that since 2010, a majority of H-1B approvals each year went to workers born in India. It added that since fiscal 2012, about 60% or more of H-1B workers approved each year held computer-related jobs. In 2023, the share was 65%, with these workers reporting a median annual salary of $1,23,600.

Nasscom, the apex body of India's technology industry, said the steep increase in H-1B visa fees will have a ripple effect on America's innovation ecosystem and the job market. "It will also impact Indian nationals working in the US on H-1B visas for both global and Indian companies. India's technology services companies will face business continuity challenges for onshore projects," it said.

Nasscom also flagged the timeline for implementation, since the new rules apply to anyone entering the US after 12.01 am on September 21. "A one-day deadline creates considerable uncertainty... Policy changes of this scale are best introduced with adequate transition periods," it added.

IT services exports to the US generate around $100 billion in revenue for India, and Trump's latest move could disrupt this (see box).

Another concern is wage pressure in India's IT industry if employees return. Yogeesha Channabasappa, an IT consultant, said, "With more people competing for India-based roles, wage growth may flatten in the short run."

Although the announcement came after Indian markets had closed, it jolted Infosys' American Depository Receipts, which fell 3.41% to $16.97 on the New York Stock Exchange. Wipro's ADRs declined 2.10%. Analysts expect the ripple effect to spill over when Indian markets open on Monday. P13

Only for new applicants

In a late night clarification, an unnamed White House official told the *New York Times* that the $1,00,000 H-1B visa fee will apply only to new applicants

Historically, the US was letting in the bottom quartile, earning $66,000 a year, often needing government assistance. It was illogical. This programme will now only admit people at the very top. If someone is that valuable, companies can pay $100,000 a year. If not, they can hire an American

—Howard Lutnick, US Commerce Secy

TOP H1B BENEFICIARIES

IT firms	2025
TCS	5,005
Cognizant	3,660
Infosys	2,004
LTIMindtree	1,807
HCL	1,728
Wipro	1,523

U.S. REVENUE FOR MAJOR INDIAN IT COS

% US revenue	
TCS	48%
Infosys	58%
HCL Tech	66%
Wipro	63%
Tech Mahindra	51%

Stunned techies scramble to US, scrap fly out plan

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE abrupt announcement by the US to levy an annual fee of ₹88.13 lakh on H1-B visa holders from September 21, with a mere 36-hour window, stunned Indian techies living in the US as well as those planning to visit the country. Plans to travel outside America or in the return direction have been abruptly cancelled or advanced by hundreds of them and their families.

While many cancelled plans to travel at the last minute while waiting to board flights to India, several others already in India are scrambling to return amid lack of clarity as the US fiat comes weeks before Indian professionals and their families travel to India for Diwali and other holidays.

Atal Agarwal, founder of OpenSphere, an AI company that offers Global Mobility Services for Immigrants, told this paper from Canada that he was inundated with messages for help from Indians in the US.

"Never in modern history has a policy affecting 500K+ highly skilled workers been implemented with a 48-hr notice ... Airports are flooded. Flight prices are skyrocketing."

Airfares from New Delhi to the US were in excess of $4,500 on a private airline's portal.

Communication sent to staff by Amazon, Facebook and Microsoft urged employees to stay put in the US while asking those outside to return before the deadline. Individuals on H-1B visas told a news agency anonymously that the underlying emotion among H-1B visa holders and families right now is "a crazy sense of panic and worry".

daCunha/AB/1051

Vokkaliga seers want caste survey deferred

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

EVEN as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stuck to his guns of conducting the Socio-economic and Educational Survey, known as caste survey, from Monday, the Vokkaliga community leadership, including Adichunchanagiri Mutt head Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, here on Saturday issued a warning to the government, saying the survey is being carried out hastily for only fifteen days without addressing grievances of the community.

Kumaraswamy said if the government continues with the census, it will create problems in future and trigger unrest in society. "The new survey will be worse than the previous one conducted by the Kantharaju commission. It will cause unrest in the state, and Congress will face the consequences," he warned while speaking to reporters after taking part in the meeting of community leaders convened by Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji.

He said, "We have also discussed the framework for a future struggle under the leadership of seers if the government does any injustice to the community in the survey. The government has done everything to cause unrest in the state. The consequences of this will be seen in the days to come." CONTINUED ON P4

Guv writes to CM

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot advised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take a relook at including Christian identifiers like 'Kumbara Christian' and 'Kuruba Christian' in the survey | P4

CM sets Oct 31 deadline to make city pothole-free

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

ENRAGED over negative media reports highlighting the poor condition of roads, inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians, and protests by residents against the government, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday warned engineers coming under Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits and set October 31 as deadline to make Bengaluru pothole-free.

He fixed the responsibility of supervising and completing the work on chief engineers, and said there is no coordination between BMRCL, Bescom, BDA and BWSSB. "The GBA chief commissioner and heads of these departments should hold a review meeting once a week. Municipal commissioners, chief engineers, superintendent engineers and executive engineers should be on the field and monitor and ensure that the quality of work is not compromised," he said. Steps have been taken to appoint a technical coordination officer to coordinate with all the five corporations, he added.

At the meeting, waterlogging and traffic jams on Outer Ring Road was discussed. A decision was taken to fix traffic at Iblur Junction, Agara, Veeranna Palya, Nagawara and Hebbal at a cost of Rs 400 crore. P2

HAS HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES: MEA

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA on Saturday said it is closely studying the full implication of the US decision to impose a $100,000 annual fee on H-1B visas, warning that the move could cause "humanitarian consequences" and disrupt families.

In a measured response, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "The full implications of the measure are being studied by all concerned, including by Indian industry, which has already put out an initial analysis clarifying some perceptions related to the H1B program." P9

INDIA VS PAKISTAN

Suryakumar Yadav and Salman Agha

Sports can no longer be a tool of diplomacy?

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

OVER the last few months, there has been a growing clamour for the Indian cricket team to refuse to play Pakistan and it grew before their first match in Asia Cup group stage. India comfortably won the game — there is honestly a noticeable difference in the skill levels of both teams — but what caught the eye was what happened on the sidelines. India's refusal to shake hands or exchange pleasantries, a kind of sporting brotherhood.

After the match, Suryakumar Yadav expressed his solidarity with the families affected by the attack in Pahalgam in April. Following that attack the sporting relations between India and Pakistan nosedived. An Indian cricket team twice boycotted Pakistan in a meet in England. The Pakistan hockey team — usually habitual travellers to India — skipped the Asia Cup earlier this month; relationships are not the same anymore. Even in a heightened state of tension, sport has been used as a diplomatic tool to try and put peace at the forefront. From 1987, when Pakistan president, Zia-ul-Haq, travelled to India to watch a Test featuring the two countries to 1996, when the two teams joined forces to play a game in Sri Lanka to show it was safe. On Sunday, India and Pakistan will meet again at the Asia Cup. If there's another round of snubbing extended hands, it may well be a new normal. MORE ON P15

EXPRESS READ

SIT to probe 'voter deletions' in Aland

BENGALURU: The state government on Saturday formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the alleged attempt to delete 6,018 names from the voters' list in the Aland constituency of Kalaburagi district, ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections. According to the government order, the SIT has been vested with police station powers, and the case registered at the Aland police station will be transferred to it | P5

Chips or ships, make them in India, says PM

AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday declared that large ships will now be officially recognised as infrastructure, a landmark policy shift aimed at revolutionising India's maritime sector and positioning the nation as a global shipping hub. Modi stressed that peace, stability, and global growth depend on India's self-reliance, boldly asserting, "Chips or ships, we must make them in India." | P10